

Good day,

As a concerned citizen from a rural area within Virginia, I felt the need to voice my concerns on Net Neutrality.

I'd like to start with a quote from writer Raquel Jaramillo:

*"...we should be remembered for the things we do. The things we do are the most important things of all."*

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I wholly support Title II net neutrality rules. By living in a small town in Virginia we do not get as many ISP choices as other towns and cities. Larger ISP's are present in the area and will gladly offer you "faster" internet for an exorbitant price because they can. Imagine if Net Neutrality is repealed – they could charge even more for the same speeds and get away with it. Our little town is growing but we still have an approximate poverty rate of 19%. That may not sound like much to you, but with a population of only 6000, it affects us quite a bit. We cannot afford to lose Net Neutrality.

If the rules are repealed, then not only is the FCC failing the public, they are unashamedly ignoring the citizen's demands for a free and open internet. The current market place is not only a monopoly in its current form, but repealing these rules will make it skewed in favor of big corporations. It is, without a doubt, in the best interest of The United States of America to defend and protect Net Neutrality. I implore you to reconsider your voting stance and to vote NO - to defend and keep Net Neutrality.

The United States *should be* the world leader in free and open internet – we are the birth place of the internet after all. Not only should Title II remain in place, it should be expanded and the internet and its infrastructure be deemed a public utility so ISP's can be monitored and incentivized into making the internet fast, reliable and available to all United States citizens. Monopolies should be broken up so that more public options can expand and make the market larger and more competitive, not smaller.

Simply put, Internet access has become a basic human right. Sure it wasn't around 100 years ago, but that's the beauty of science and technology - it is forever changing and improving our lives.

The government cannot allow ISPs to charge me for using certain websites or regulate my bandwidth (refers to the amount of information that a connection to the internet, can handle in a given time) in an attempt to convince me to use websites who have paid off my ISP to not charge me to use them. The current administration is having a superiority contest with the previous administration and is aggressively dismantling Obama-era policies. There's no common sense to it.

With Net Neutrality, the Internet is available to everyone and provides access **the entirety of human knowledge**. Think about that for a minute; our species has been accumulating knowledge for thousands and thousands of years and it's all sitting at our fingertips.

Preserving an open internet is crucial for fair and equal access to the resources and information available on it. Limiting access to information and monetizing the internet will result in the loss of respect for the government and all institutions that are 'for' this movement.

*So no matter what type of person you are, I implore you: Try. Try to make the world a better place. Look inside yourself and recognize that change starts with you. It starts with me. It starts with all of us.*

**Forget about lining your pockets and start thinking about lining your soul. Do not let your greediness outweigh your humanity. Let your legacy be defined right here, right now. Be the one who stood with the people and did the right thing.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra Hanshew, MLT (ASCP<sup>CM</sup>)